



## State of Tennessee

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 409

By Representative Sexton

and

Senator Burks

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Crossville, Inc., upon the celebration of Twenty-five Years of business.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly salute those exemplary institutions that, through an abiding commitment to excellence, are a credit to their communities and this State; and

WHEREAS, as the only privately held, family owned, American-owned, domestic tile company in the United States, Crossville, Inc., is certainly one such extraordinary business, which will celebrate Twenty-five Years of industry on May 8, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the inception of this noteworthy establishment dates back to 1918, when the Curran Group was founded in Crystal Lake, Illinois, as a coal and ice operation; and

WHEREAS, realizing that porcelain tile was emerging as a new market, with architects and designers beginning to utilizing the material in large commercial environments, the Curran Group decided to expand its enterprise to include the manufacturing of large-format tile; and

WHEREAS, it partnered with a European engineering firm called Niro (now known as GEA Niro) in the early 1980s to build a large production facility in the United States, calling the new business, Crossville, Inc., and placing Svend Hovmand, a Danish chemical engineer, in charge of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Curran Group became the sole owner of the company in 1987, and Mr. Hovmand served with acumen and alacrity as the President of Crossville, Inc., from 1989 until 2005 and continues rendering sterling service to the business as its Chairman Emeritus; and

WHEREAS, internationally renowned colorist, Barbara Schirmeister joined Crossville, Inc., in 1990, as a color and design consultant, bringing a new level of design to the company; and

WHEREAS, Crossville, Inc., has been blessed with the visionary leadership of its current President, John E. Smith, since 2005; Mr. Smith joined the company in 1994, as the Vice President of Manufacturing and soon cultivated a reputation for the utmost integrity and professionalism as he increased production of the company's large-unit Porcelain Stone tile and oversaw the construction of several state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities; and

WHEREAS, having achieved unparalleled success in its field, Crossville, Inc., embarked on an \$11 million expansion project in 2009, which included the purchase of the largest tile press of its kind in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, throughout its illustrious history, Crossville, Inc., has stood as an innovative and inspiring leader in the industry, opening a dedicated Research and Development laboratory, winning a plethora of process and products awards, and introducing the first porcelain tile with certified recycled content, glass and metal tile with certified recycled content, and the Tile Take-back Program to recycle fired porcelain tile; and

WHEREAS, today, this magnificent establishment employs over 400 people at three manufacturing locations in Crossville, Tennessee, and boasts an impressive fifteen-year record with no lost time accidents; and

**HJR 409**

WHEREAS, Crossville, Inc., has distinguished itself as a public-spirited corporate citizen of the highest order by donating tile to local schools and public buildings, offering generous discounts to numerous worthy causes, and supporting the youth in its community with monetary donations for various school projects and sporting events; and

WHEREAS, for a quarter of a century, Crossville, Inc., has provided our citizenry with the most innovative production techniques, trend-setting designs, and sustainable manufacturing efforts in the tile industry while always remaining faithful to its core values of family, partnership, integrity, respect, and improvement, and it should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the owners and employees of Crossville Inc., upon the celebration of the company's Twenty-fifth Anniversary, applaud their commitment to excellence, and wish these fine citizens all the best in their future endeavors.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: MAY 18, 2011



BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 25<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011



BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR